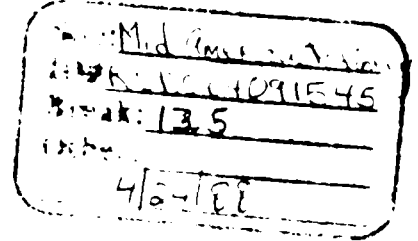




97283

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII
726 MINNESOTA AVENUE
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101



APR 24 1988

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed is a fact sheet about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPAs) activities at the Mid-America Refinery Company (MARCO) site. The site is located at 1201 N. Santa Fe, Chanute, Kansas.

If you would like additional information about EPA's activities at this site, please contact Dana Riffel, of my staff, at 913-551-7003 or call our toll-free environmental action line at 1-800-223-0425.

Sincerely,

Charles P. Henning for

Rowena L. Michaels, Director
Office of External Programs

Enclosure



FACT SHEET

MARCO Site Chanute, Kansas



EPA
Region 7

April 1998

SITE UPDATE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 is currently addressing contamination at the Mid-America Refinery Company (MARCO) Site in Chanute, Kansas. The agency is removing petroleum tanks and their contents, in addition to above and below-ground piping from the site. Contaminated soil is also being excavated, due to petroleum materials that have leaked from the tanks over time.

BACKGROUND

The Mid-America Refinery Company in Chanute, Kansas, is a 25-acre abandoned oil refinery. The facility operated from 1934 to 1981, when it was shut down due to bankruptcy. During that time, MARCO processed about 2,800 barrels per day of crude stock that was turned into diesel fuel, jet fuel, gas, oil and kerosene. The remaining products were used to make asphalt.

In 1986, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) performed a preliminary assessment to survey the condition of the abandoned refinery. KDHE referred the site to EPA in 1992. In November 1992, EPA conducted an initial site investigation, which indicated that at least 40% of the 138 tanks that were on-site had inadequate diking. Excessive runoff and pools of oily water were noted throughout the site during heavy precipitation.

The property was purchased by a trustee of the Robert Cooley Trust Fund in January 1994. A Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) was issued to the trustee in October, 1996, to clean up the site. The trustee did not comply with the UAO and to date has taken no action to clean up the site.

In 1994, a cleanup, under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), addressed the hazardous waste and asbestos that was located on-site. Fifty-nine tanks containing petroleum related waste remained on-site after this cleanup action due to the CERCLA petroleum exclusion provision. The petroleum exclusion provision states that Superfund resources cannot be used for the cleanup of petroleum products.

After the CERCLA cleanup was completed, the trustee of the site obtained the services of scrap metal salvagers. During these "scrapping" efforts, tops and sides of tanks were cut off, which has allowed rainwater to collect in the tanks and the petroleum materials to leak directly onto the ground. Because the site sits on a steep hill, run-off from rain allows these petroleum materials to discharge into a drainage ditch. The drainage ditch runs through a wetlands and

discharges into Village Creek, which then flows into the Neosho River, the source for drinking water for the city of Chanute.

SITE ACTIVITIES

The EPA is currently removing petroleum tanks and piping from the refinery site. The majority of the tanks are in poor condition and are leaking petroleum materials. The soil surrounding these tanks has also been contaminated from the petroleum discharge. The agency is excavating the contaminated soil at this time.

This action is authorized by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act ("Clean Water Act") as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA). OPA allows for the removal or arrangements for the removal of oil-contaminated materials and debris to prevent the threat of a substantial discharge of oil into a waterway.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions about this fact sheet, or need additional information regarding this site, please contact:

Dana Riffel, Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of External Programs
726 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
(913) 551-7003 or toll free at 1-800-223-0425

